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BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 1966

ELLIS TAYLOR :

W. J. WOLSTENHOLME :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

*THE MAYOR (Councillor N. TOPPING, J.P., C.C.) *ex-officio.*

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Vice-Chairman: *Alderman J. A. DEAN

Members:

Alderman J. BROOKS

*Alderman J. W. GEERE, J.P., C.A.

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*Alderman J. M. WHITE

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Councillor J. WILD

*Members of Sub-Committee

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

ELLIS TAYLOR, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

W. J. WOLSTENHOLME, M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspectors:

C. L. GARSIDE, M.A.P.H.I.

W. B. LLOYD, M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed 4/1/66).

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

J. TUNSTALL

Clerks:

Mrs. M. M. TAYLOR.

Miss C. L. BAXENDALE.

STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH

Area	1,504	statute acres
Population	26,700	Estimated mid-1966
		27,474 Census 1961
Number of Inhabited Houses, Census 1931	7,104	
Number of Inhabited Houses, Census 1961	9,119	
Number of Inhabited Houses, Estimated 1966	9,397	
Rateable Value	£746,666	
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£2,840	

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your information and consideration the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1966.

Throughout the year the Department has been staffed to establishment and much constructive work was accomplished.

Regrettfully, as last year, I am unable to record any purposeful fulfilment of the hopes of the Committee in seeing an expeditious housing programme to justify the Clearance Orders confirmed by the Ministry of Housing. As soon as re-housing can be assured the staff is anxious to continue, with a sense of urgency, representations of houses unfit for human habitation.

I would like to commend to your notice the comments of your Chief Public Health Inspector on Housing, Caravans, Smoke Control and Public Conveniences; I fully concur and would associate myself with his views.

I acknowledge the help and encouragement given by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the loyal co-operation of the staff of the Health Department.

ELLIS TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1966

BIRTHS:		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	.....	219	213	432
Illegitimate	.....	10	14	24
TOTAL	.....	229	227	456

STILL BIRTHS		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	.....	5	3	8
Illegitimate	.....	1	—	1
TOTAL	.....	6	3	9

	Farnworth	England & Wales
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population	18.8	17.7
STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total births	19.4	15.4

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR:	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	4	5	9
Illegitimate	1	—	1
TOTAL	5	5	10

INFANT MORTALITY RATE:	Farnworth	England & Wales
(all infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births)	21.9	19.0
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE: (Per 1,000 total births)	34.4	26.3
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE: (Per 1,000 total births)	2.15	0.26
DEATH RATE: (Per 1,000 population)	13.3	11.7

Consideration of the vital statistics reveals a not unsatisfactory state for an industrial town in the North West. Whilst the birth rate declined it nevertheless was above the national rate and the death rate remained the same as last year. Included in the deaths was one maternal death—fortunately not a frequent occurrence. Whilst there was one fewer infant death as compared with last year, the rate shows an increase because of the marked reduction in the number of births—84. Seven infant deaths occurred within seven days of birth, and added to the nine still births caused an increase in the perinatal rate to 34.4.

The causes of death of the ten children under one year of age are shown below:

Causes of death	Age at Death					Totals
	Under 1 day	1 day and less than 7 days	1 week and less than 4 weeks	4 weeks and less than 6 months	6 months and less than 12 months	
Congenital abnormalities	1	1	—	1	—	3
Prematurity	2	2	—	—	—	4
Respiratory illnesses	—	1	1	1	—	3

The main causes of deaths for the last ten years are shown in the following table:—

<i>Cause of Death</i>	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Bronchitis ...	25	34	26	19	35	39	28	28	24	43
Pneumonia ...	10	22	33	12	19	34	27	15	31	30
Heart Disease	121	134	98	109	127	127	106	116	102	110
	(64)	(55)	(53)	(59)	(76)	(85)	(59)	(73)	(60)	(68)
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	46	57	61	65	72	82	58	56	73	67
Cancer	56	66	63	57	80	52	58	72	68	58
	(15)	(11)	(18)	(14)	(17)	(9)	(10)	(22)	(21)	(13)

The figures in brackets denote the deaths due to coronary disease and those due to lung cancer.

The causes of death in all ages in 1966 are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1.
CAUSES OF DEATH IN ALL AGES IN 1966

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ALL AGES IN 1966 (*continued*)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

As was noted last year, the usual biennial swing of measles seemed to be flattening out—147 cases being notified in what should have been on off-peak year.

The incidence of infectious disease was not sufficiently significant to call for comment although what might have been may be a different story. During May to July an outbreak of smallpox in the Midlands produced some alarms—the nearest cases being in Salford. Fortunately, the main effect on the Department was limited to the counter-stamping of a large number of International Certificates for continental holidaymakers. It was considered necessary, however, to ask family doctors to inform the Health Department of any adult cases of chickenpox or of any atypical rashes.

Details of cases of infectious disease notified during the year are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1966

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total cases at all ages	AGE PERIODS—YEARS								
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25 & over
Scarlet Fever	15	-	-	1	1	2	10	1	-	-
Whooping cough	4	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	147	4	19	23	20	19	61	1	-	-
Diphtheria	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		0-		5-		15-		45-		65 & over
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	2	-		-		-		-		2
Smallpox	Nil	-		-		-		-		-
Acute encephalitis	Nil	-		-		-		-		-
Enteric or typhoid fever	Nil	-		-		-		-		-
Paratyphoid fever	Nil	-		-		-		-		-
Erysipelas	Nil	-		-		-		-		-
Food poisoning	Nil	-		-		-		-		-
Tuberculosis (Respiratory).....	2	-		-		1		1		-
Meninges and C.N.S.	Nil	-		-		-		-		-
Other	Nil	-		-		-		-		-
Puerperal pyrexia.....	Nil	-		-		-		-		-

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND HEALTH

The town continued to be well served by many active voluntary bodies concerned with improving and maintaining the health and happiness of the community. They have all extended and consolidated their services and deserve the gratitude and appreciation of the Corporation on behalf of the townsfolk.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

During the year two persons were removed to suitable accommodation under the provisions of the National Assistance Act, 1948. In one case, an infirm and aged man living alone in insanitary conditions and not receiving proper care and attention, could not be persuaded to go into residential care voluntarily. Happily, he settled in his new home quite quickly and was content to remain there. The other case, an old man suffering from grave chronic disease and living alone in insanitary conditions, was taken into hospital.

HOUSING

In the three years prior to 1966 the Department was able to maintain a fairly steady rate of activity in bringing forward areas of bad housing for clearance. Early in 1966, however, it had become quite evident that the rate of clearance representation was out-stripping the building of new houses, and that a halt would have to be called. The disappointing result was that during 1966 only one small clearance area, containing seven houses, was put forward. An indication of the lack of urgency in the attitude towards the clearance of unfit houses is shown by the fact that although this tiny area of seven houses was represented in April of 1966, no action had been taken by the end of the year to secure the necessary Clearance Order. Even now, at the time of writing this Report, these seven unfit houses are still occupied, as, indeed, are others in Clearance Areas declared many months earlier.

During the year demolition of houses in the Glynne Street-Gower Street Clearance Area continued. 54 houses in this area were demolished, resulting in the disappearance of the whole of Rose Street, Smith Street and Short Street. Only 46 new Council dwellings were completed in 1966, and not all of these went to families from clearance areas. Year after year the number of replacement houses provided by the Council falls short of the target of 70, and this, of course, makes nonsense of the very moderate Clearance Programme which the Department has been trying to maintain. It has to be said that in 1966 the essential work of improving housing conditions in the Borough did not get the attention it deserves. Too many Farnworth families are still living in houses built and equipped to last century standards, and not enough attention is being given to the statutory duty of the local authority to ensure decent housing conditions for its people. At the present rate of progress, it is probable that there will be houses in the town without baths and hot water long after man sets foot on the moon.

It has for some time been the Department's contention that more effort should be put into the publicising of Housing Improvement Grants, and it is pleasing to be able to record that during the year the Council approved a proposal to carry out a modest publicity campaign in the Larkhill area of the town. Pressure of other work did not allow this to be done in 1966, but next year's review will contain a report on the campaign and on its results.

There has been some criticism of the Council's policy in the past three or four years, of acquiring old cottage-type houses by agreement with the owners in advance of clearance requirements. Concern has been expressed about the cost of repairs to these

houses in relation to the low rents which can be charged, and that families put into these houses on a temporary basis have had to stay longer than anticipated. It is natural in the face of such criticism that the rightness of the policy should be questioned. Nevertheless, it must be in the best long-term interests of the town for obsolete houses to be under the authority's control. Is the answer to be found not in stopping the further acquisition of old houses but in taking all but the best of them out of use until they can be demolished?

There has been no let-up in the Department's activities in securing the repair of privately-owned tenanted houses. Advancing decay, controlled rents, high repair costs, elusive property repairers, and the shadow of eventual clearance, can make life difficult and frustrating for landlords of old houses. A terrace of cottages is not the investment it used to be. During the year the Public Health Inspectors made more than 700 visits for the purpose of inspecting houses requiring repair and enforcing compliance with repair Notices. One formal Closing Order was made and one house was pulled down under a Demolition Order.

The Housing Acts require certain standards to be maintained in houses used by more than one family. There are very few such houses in the Borough. Three were inspected during the year, occupied by seven families. A number of deficiencies found were put right following approaches to the owners concerned.

Housing statistics covering the year 1966 are given in Tables 3 and 4.

TABLE 3

1. Number of new dwellings erected during the year :

	Houses	Flats
(i) By the local authority	28	18
(ii) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	31	Nil
2. Total No. of dwellings owned by any local authority existing in district at end of year	3700	

3. Inspections of dwellings during the year :—

(i) (a)	Total No. of dwellings inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	450
(b)	No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	1224
(c)	No. of dwellings in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	210
(ii)	Total No. of dwellings existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which—	
(a)	Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have been made (at any time)	183
(b)	Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made	117

4. Houses Demolished :—

In or Adjoining Clearance Areas :

Number	Displaced during year from houses to be demolished or closed Persons Families
54	
Nil	160 53
Nil	

Not in or Adjoining Clearance Areas :

(iv)	As a result of formal or informal procedure under S.16 or S.17(1), Housing Act, 1957	4
(v)	Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	Nil
(vi)	Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	8 2
(vii)	Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	Nil

	Number	Displaced during year from houses to be demolished or closed Persons Families	
5. Unfit Houses Closed :—			
(i) Under S.16(4), S.17(1) and S.35(1), Housing Act, 1957, and S.26, Housing Act, 1961	2		
(ii) Under S.17(3) and S.26, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	5	2
(iii) Parts of buildings closed under S.18, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil

	Number
6. Unfit Houses Made Fit :—	
(i) By owner after informal action by local authority	165
(ii) After Formal notice under S.9 and S.16, Housing Act, 1957—	
(a) by owner	Nil
(b) by local authority	Nil
(iii) After formal notice under Public Health Acts	Nil
(iv) After modification or revocation of a clearance order under S.21, Housing Act, 1961	Nil
(v) After determination of a demolition order under S.24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil
(vi) After determination of a closing order under S.27, Housing Act, 1961	Nil

	Number of houses (1)	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)
7. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):—		
Position at end of year :		
(i) Retained for temporary accom- modation		
(a) Under Section 48	Nil	Nil
(b) Under S.17(2)	Nil	Nil
(c) Under S.46	Nil	Nil
(ii) Licensed for temporary occupation under S.34 or S.53	Nil	—

	Number of houses (1)	Number of occupants of houses in Col. (1) (2)
8. Purchase of Houses by Agreement :— Houses in clearance areas other than those included in confirmed orders or compulsory purchase orders	Nil	Nil
	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected in schemes of— Private bodies or individuals Local Authority	
9. Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958— Improvement grants, etc.:—		
Action during year :		
(i) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	5	———
(ii) Approved by local authority	5	———
(iii) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil
(iv) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil
(v) Work completed	5	Nil
(vi) Additional separate dwellings included in (v) above	Nil	Nil
	No. of dwellings or other buildings affected	
10. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 and Housing Acts, 1961 and 1964—Standard Grants :—		
Action during year :		
(i) Applications submitted to local authority for improvement to		
(a) full standard	40	
(b) reduced standard	Nil	
(ii) Total applications approved by local authority for improvement to		
(a) full standard	40	
(b) reduced standard	Nil	
(iii) Work completed	40	

TABLE 4.

CARAVANS

Itinerant caravan dwellers settling in the town caused less trouble in 1966 than in former years. The main reason for this was that some of the plots of land they had previously used have been developed or otherwise made inaccessible to them. The land at Fern Street has been absorbed by the new by-pass road; the Fletcher Street and David Street sites have been enclosed; and the Crompton Street site is being developed for housing purposes.

During the year, efforts were made to secure improvements in sanitary arrangements on the five permanent caravan sites used by showmen for winter quarters. As many as fifty caravans use these sites. Facilities are primitive, most of the caravanners having chemical or pail closets which have to be emptied by the Corporation's Cleansing Department. To remedy this, agreement was reached during the year for two of the sites to have additional drainage facilities, and this should result in much better conditions. It was hoped that similar arrangements could be made on all the sites, but this is now unlikely because at least two of the sites will probably be affected in the near future by proposed re-development of the town centre.

This again raises the question of the future of permanent caravan sites in Farnworth. Sooner or later, events will force a decision on whether the town should continue to tolerate showmen's caravans, and if so whether a purpose-built site, properly equipped and situated, should be provided for them.

CLEAN AIR

As anticipated in last year's Report, the Borough's first Smoke Control Order under the Clean Air Act of 1956 was made and confirmed in 1966. The Order covers an area of some 200 acres in the south-west part of the town and contains about a thousand dwellings, including most of the Council's post-war housing. Although the Order was confirmed in October it was not due to come into force until June 1967, so a report on its operation will have to wait until next year. No formal objections to the Order were made, and by the end of the year a good number of the private householders affected had already sent in proposals for altering their fireplaces, a necessary part of the procedure to enable them to get grants from the Council towards the cost of the work involved. Recent amendments in the regulations governing the payment of grants in Smoke Control Areas have made it possible for householders to choose more freely from the range of heating appliances using all types of smokeless fuel, and many people in the

Area are taking advantage of this opportunity. When the Order was submitted it was estimated that 132 privately-owned houses in the Area would need fireplace alterations at a total cost of nearly £8,500, and that the average grant would be about £46 a house.

Now that a start has been made on the Borough's Smoke Control Programme it is to be hoped it can be kept going. To achieve the target of covering the whole of the town by 1978 will call for determined effort, without interruption caused by staff shortage or financial restriction. Government statements during the year made it plain that despite limitations in some areas of local authority spending it is not the intention to restrict the progress of smoke control in any way. So it was that the completion of the preliminary work on No. 1 Smoke Control Order was followed immediately by a survey of the area to be covered by No. 2 Order. This survey was done by September and the proposed Order was ready for submission by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, it had been realised that consideration should be given to amending the Smoke Control Programme, originally drawn up in 1959. This was prompted by proposals for redevelopment in a number of areas in the Borough, suggesting the need to cover these areas as soon as possible with Smoke Control Orders to ensure they could be smoke controlled from the outset. This principle was accepted by the Council in June and the Annual Report for 1967 will show that progress is being made in this direction.

During the latter part of 1966 a considerable amount of work was put into the compilation of a Clean Air Handbook. The purpose of the Handbook is to explain in practical terms the advantages of clean air, the procedure leading up to the establishment of Smoke Control Areas, and to advise people in Smoke Control Areas how they are affected and to help them to decide on the fireplace alterations they need and claim the grants to which they may be entitled. Copies of the Handbook will be distributed freely to all householders in future Smoke Control Areas.

Turning to air pollution from industrial sources, there is little to add to statements made in previous years that factory chimneys in Farnworth are cleaner than they have ever been and can no longer be held responsible for more than a small proportion of the town's smoke. Frequent observations on industrial chimneys are undertaken by the Department, and any excessive or unnecessary emission is brought to the notice of the factory management concerned. The need arose during 1966 to submit to the Council an adverse report on a particular industrial chimney, and this resulted in an assurance by the firm concerned that they would replace the

offending boilers. This pledge has since been honoured, resulting in virtual elimination of smoke from the chimney. It is unfortunately necessary to have to complete this paragraph on industrial smoke by saying that recent observations indicate that the chimney guilty of producing probably more smoke than any other in the Borough is at Bolton District General Hospital.

For a number of years the amount of pollution in the town's air at breathing level has been measured daily. This is done by a method of continuous sampling, a measured quantity of outdoor air being passed through a recording apparatus which extracts sulphur and smoke particles. Each day these pollutants are measured and the result gives the weight of pollutants in relation to the volume of air from which they have been extracted. Two of these measuring instruments are in operation, and monthly average readings for 1966 together with annual average readings for seven years are given in Table 5.

The lower smoke readings for the past two or three years can only be accounted for by the reduction in industrial smoke and the increasing use of smokeless fuels in domestic appliances. It is somewhat surprising to see that sulphur measurements are following a similar trend—sulphur pollution would not be expected to diminish significantly while solid fuels and oil continue to be the main sources of domestic and industrial heating. It is too much to expect sulphur pollution to continue to decrease at the same rate as smoke until gas and electric heating are in wider use.

The Avondale Road instrument is in the No. 1 Smoke Control Area, and it will be interesting to compare future readings from this instrument with those of previous years.

Measurements of air pollution in the Borough are carried out in collaboration with the South East Lancashire and North Cheshire Consultative Committee for the Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution.

TABLE 5.

**ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION BY SMOKE AND SULPHUR
MEASURED BY VOLUMETRIC INSTRUMENTS**

PERIOD		Average daily amounts of pollution in microgrammes per cubic metre of air			
		Smoke		Sulphur	
		Town Hall	Avondale Road	Town Hall	Avondale Road
Month January	1966	287	302	273	322
Month February	1966	209	196	126	207
Month March	1966	153	140	140	134
Month April	1966	143	136	159	186
Month May	1966	95	75	98	122
Month June	1966	49	46	94	102
Month July	1966	45	51	57	54
Month August	1966	87	69	119	94
Month September	1966	181	161	198	173
Month October	1966	238	261	195	223
Month November	1966	220	225	201	212
Month December	1966	207	201	210	191
Year Jan—Dec.	1960	323	306	276	242
..	1961	295	308	277	309
..	1962	351	340	365	386
..	1963	275	294	302	285
..	1964	250	257	251	219
..	1965	187	193	173	160
..	1966	159	155	156	168

FOOD

In this section of the review for 1965 it was reported with some satisfaction that all food premises in the Borough had been inspected during the year. This was a major step forward, following the sparse attention given to this vital job in previous years. Food premises cannot be visited too often, and it would be satisfying indeed if it could be reported that they had all been inspected again in 1966. Unfortunately this was not possible, smoke control work having to take pride of place. Nevertheless, progress was made in building upon the solid foundation laid in 1965. More than a thousand visits to food premises were recorded, many of them to check whether deficiencies found in the 1965 survey had been put right. Public houses were also inspected again. The two years' work can be described as an exercise in discovery and improvement. Our endeavour in future years will be to see that the better standards achieved are maintained and further improved. That this is necessary in the interests of public health is amply demonstrated by the number of cases of food poisoning occurring.

Cases of Food Poisoning in England and Wales

Year	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
No. of Cases	18,000	15,100	14,900	16,600	13,700	12,750	9,696	13,104	9,975	11,317

The Ministry of Health figures for 1965 again show that meat, especially processed or "made-up" meats, was responsible for by far the larger proportion of food poisoning outbreaks.

As anticipated in last year's Report, the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations were issued in 1966 and came into operation on the 1st January, 1967. Perhaps the most important provision of the Regulations is the requirement, subject to certain exceptions, that market stalls selling open food must have sinks and wash-basins with a hot and cold water supply. Following the issue of the Regulations, a full-scale survey of food stalls on Farnworth Market was carried out, and a report and recommendations submitted to the Council. Out of this came the Council's decision to confine the sale of open food to permanent stalls, which already have some of the necessary facilities. With the possibilities of re-development of the whole Market area in prospect it might be difficult to justify substantial expenditure on existing stalls, but this should not be used as an excuse, either by the Corporation or by food traders, to evade the impact of the

Regulations indefinitely. Certainly, any plans for re-development of the Market must include specific arrangements to enable full compliance, in letter and spirit, with the Regulations. Any scheme which could lead to a return to open food trading from open market stalls would be a step backwards. The aim should be to ensure that unwrapped food is sold only from permanent stalls with the full range of proper facilities. A plastic bowl and an electric kettle might satisfy a court of law as a wash-basin and hot water supply, but it hardly encourages a busy market trader to wash his hands after using the toilet.

Food traders generally continued during the year to co-operate by calling on the Public Health Inspectors to judge the fitness for sale of suspect foodstuffs. More than two hundred visits were made in this connection, resulting in the following goods being rejected, surrendered and destroyed:

Tinned Foods	1570	lbs.
Meat	90	lbs.
Frozen Foods	67½	lbs.
Lard	112	lbs.
Sweets	60	lbs.

The Lancashire County Council acts as the Food and Drugs Authority for the Farnworth district. Officers of the County Health Department are responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act relating to adulteration and labelling of food, and these officers in collaboration with the local Health Department take samples of food and drugs throughout the district, arranging for analysis and taking appropriate action when necessary. Particulars of samples taken during 1966, together with the results of analysis, are given in Table 6.

The Food and Drugs Act requires premises used for the preparation or manufacture of certain foods to be registered with the Borough Council. At the end of the year there were 32 of these premises registered.

A list of the number of different types of food premises in the Borough is given in Table 7.

TABLE 6.
ADULTERATION OF FOOD
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Particulars of samples taken during the year 1966:

Milk	121
Other articles	71

The 71 other articles comprised:—

1 pork sausage	1 colouring material
1 beef sausage	1 plum pudding.
3 bread	3 canned meat
2 butter	1 table salt
1 blancmange powder	2 ice-cream
2 custard powder	2 ice-lolly
1 table jelly	1 plain flour
2 coffee extract, dry	1 cooking fat
3 lard	1 baking powder
2 flour confectionery	1 coffee
1 marmalade	2 barley
1 cocoa	1 oatmeal
1 curry powder	1 jam
1 aspirin tablets	1 fruit curd
2 white pepper	1 table jelly
1 junior aspirin tablets	1 sterilised cream
1 anadin tablets	1 rum
1 butazolidin tablets	3 whisky
2 sauce	1 gin
1 gravy browning	1 brandy
1 vinegar	1 fish cake
2 self-raising flour	1 chicken meal
4 canned fruit	1 ice-cream powder
1 fresh fruit	1 coffee and chicory essence, liquid
1 cinnamon	
1 spice, mixed, ground	

Details are given below of those samples upon which the County Analyst gave adverse reports.

Type of sample	Results of Analysis	Action Taken
Bread	Contained 3½ grams of crumb slightly discoloured with edible fat and atmospheric dust which affected seven slices of the loaf.	Bakers cautioned and complainant informed.
Informal milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 3.6% extraneous water.	Dairy interviewed.
Formal milk	Fat 2.65%—deficient 11.6% fat.	Farmer cautioned and further sample obtained.
Informal milk	Fat 1.5%—deficient 50% fat. Phosphatase portion deficient of 51.6% fat.	Formal sample obtained.
Fish cake (frozen)	Contained a broken piece of green glass of the nature of bottle glass, weighing 1.42 grams. No other glass found in the sample.	Complainant and manufacturers informed.

TABLE 7.
NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES IN DISTRICT
AT THE END OF 1966

TYPE OF BUSINESS	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	99
Greengrocers and Fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	29
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.)	3
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	43
Bakers and/or confectioners	42
Fried fish shops	23
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	27
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments ...	90

HAWKERS

There were six names on the register of Hawkers at the end of 1966, no new registrations being made during the year.

ICE CREAM

Under the Food and Drugs Act of 1955, premises used for the manufacture, sale or storage of ice cream have to be registered with the local authority. At the end of the year the registers contained the names of 2 manufacturers and 139 dealers, a net increase of one dealer over the previous year. 121 visits and inspections were made in connection with the sale of ice cream.

Altogether 21 samples of ice cream were taken in 1966. 20 of these were submitted for bacteriological examination, and the results were as follows:—

Provisional Grade	1	2	3	4	Total
Number of samples	15	2	1	2	20

All but one of the samples showing a standard lower than Grade 1 were from one source. Investigations into this manufacturer's methods showed that equipment was not being properly sterilised; further samples taken after this had been put right were satisfactory.

MILK

Licences to produce or sell milk in the Borough are issued by the County Council on the recommendation of the County Public Health Officers, who carry out sampling duties and inspections of producers' and dealers' premises. Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are responsible for enforcing satisfactory standards of hygiene at farms. The Borough Council retains the duty of keeping a register of all milk distributors, including shops. At the end of 1966 there were 157 distributors on the register.

Three farmers in the Borough are licenced to produce milk. Samples of raw milk from these producers taken by the Public Health Inspectors during the year for bacteriological examination resulted in the finding that milk from one of the farms was infected

by brucella organisms. The farmer concerned was required by an Order under the Milk and Dairies Regulations to have the infected milk pasteurised before sale, and this Order remained in force until the infected cow had been removed from the herd and further samples gave satisfactory results.

Notification was received during the year from a local doctor that one of his patients was suffering from brucellosis. Enquiries showed that the patient's milk supply came from a farm in an adjoining local authority's district. The Public Health Department of that Authority were asked to investigate, and examination of the milk confirmed that it was infected. Action was taken by the Authority concerned to ensure that the milk was pasteurised until infection had been removed from the herd.

It was reported in the review for 1965 that the Department had been involved in lengthy investigations into the cause of sediment being found over a period in bottles of pasteurised milk produced at a local dairy, and that modification or replacement of equipment at the dairy had apparently cleared up the problem. During the year under review the dairy management have installed an automatic device which rejects any bottle containing extraneous matter, and regular examination of the milk has confirmed that there has been no recurrence of the problem.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS AND MEAT INSPECTION

Slaughter of cattle and sheep continued throughout the year at the one licensed private slaughterhouse in the Borough. All meat and offal was inspected in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations either at the time of slaughter or as soon as possible afterwards. This is one of the regular routine jobs which have to be done regardless of other work. All animals slaughtered were of good quality and little evidence of disease was found. Details are given in Table 8.

The slaughterhouse premises are old. They are neither designed, constructed nor situated to meet modern requirements. Within these limitations, however, a fair standard of cleanliness and hygiene is maintained.

Regulations made during the year allow local authorities to control the hours during which slaughtering can take place. No action was needed to be taken under these Regulations, only a minimal amount of meat inspection having to be done outside normal working hours.

The year also produced new Regulations concerning the use of wiping cloths in slaughterhouses. In the past it has been common practice for carcases to be wiped down during slaughter, and it has been known for some time that this encourages the spread of contamination from one part of a carcase to another and from carcase to carcase, especially when the wiping cloths or the water in which they are rinsed are not changed frequently. The new Regulations require that wiping cloths must not be used at all after October, 1968, and that until that date, cloths must be sterilised before use and a fresh cloth must be used for each carcase.

TABLE 8.
SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS
Carcases inspected and incidence of disease

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	514	4	1	765	Nil
Number inspected	514	4	1	765	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis :—					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	Nil	Nil	18	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis ...	2.3%	Nil	Nil	2.3%	Nil
Tuberculosis only:—					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cysticercosis:—					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

WATER SUPPLY

Every house in the town has a piped supply of mains water supplied by Bolton Corporation. The water is derived from upland gathering grounds and is filtered and treated before going into supply. It is soft in nature and satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Samples of both raw and filtered water are regularly subjected to full bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. Special examinations and analyses are made as circumstances require.

During 1966, 673 samples of raw water were taken for bacteriological examination and partial chemical analysis, and 12 for full chemical analysis in the statutory area of supply. In addition, 1,641 samples of filtered and treated water received bacteriological examination and partial analysis and 18 full chemical analysis. Results showed that the filtered and treated water was of a satisfactory quality, B.Coli being absent in 98.48% of the potable water samples tested.

No special action was required to be taken in respect of any form of contamination. From tests made the water was shown to have no significant plumbo-solvent action.

The public water mains afforded a direct supply to a population of approximately 26,700 persons living in Farnworth. No supply was afforded to dwelling houses by standpipe.

In 1966, 222 yards of 2in. and 166 yards of 3in. diameter water main were laid to new houses; 119 yards of 2in. and 2 yds. of 6in. diameter water main were laid to existing houses in the Borough.

PUBLIC BATHS

During the year under review admissions to the Baths totalled 117,759. 11,928 persons used the slipper baths, including 858 old age pensioners who are admitted at a reduced charge.

Water for the pool is supplied from the town's mains and is subjected to a process of continuous filtration and chlorination. Regular tests are made to ensure a satisfactory residual chlorine content and pH value. Twenty-two samples of water from the pool were also taken for bacteriological examination; all were reported to be satisfactory.

The increasing number of people using the swimming pool (admissions in 1966 were the highest ever) puts a heavy burden

on the filtration plant. This equipment has operated almost continuously, day and night, for ten years, and requires frequent maintenance and repair to keep the pool water in satisfactory condition. The time is approaching when replacement of the plant will have to be considered.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

It was reported last year that according to the Department's records there were only three waste water closets left in the Borough at the end of 1965. Two of these were at houses demolished or closed in 1966 and the third was converted during the year. As far as is known, therefore, there are now no waste water closets in use in the town. Apart from one pail closet at a farm, where connection to the sewer is impracticable, and the pail closets on caravan sites which are discussed in the section on caravans, all sanitary accommodation is now on the fresh water system. It is estimated that there are 10,500 fresh water closets in the Borough.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Borough's Cleansing services are under the control of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor. About 10,560 domestic dustbins are emptied weekly by three teams of collectors, in addition to regular collections of trade waste from shops and other commercial premises.

When necessary, action is taken by the Health Department to ensure replacement of defective dustbins. Informal notices served on owners of property are usually sufficient and no statutory notices were issued during the year. New dustbins are supplied by the Corporation, both to Council-houses and to privately owned houses at the request of owners. Altogether 399 new bins were supplied in 1966. With the bulk of refuse increasing and the spread of smokeless areas it may be found that one dustbin is no longer sufficient in all cases to cope with a normal week's refuse from one household.

Disposal of refuse, about 10,000 tons during the year, took place at Darley tip. This tipping site, which has been in use for many years, is coming to the end of its useful life and alternative arrangements will soon have to be made. Refuse tipping in densely built-up urban areas can be wasteful of land which could be put to better purposes, as well as being difficult to control satisfactorily. Disposal by incineration is more costly, but it may well have to be considered in the future.

Frequent inspections of the tip were made during the year to search out and destroy rat infestations. Considerable quantities of food and vegetable waste find their way on to the tip and regular rodent control measures are essential.

SEWERAGE

Following the Fylde Street sewer collapse in 1957, an extensive check was made on the condition of all the Borough's main sewers. The Council subsequently accepted recommendations that many of the older sewers should be reconstructed, and this work started early in 1966. It entails a considerable amount of tunnelling as well as open construction. It is expected to take two years at a cost approaching a million pounds. When the reconstruction is completed, practically all the town's sewage will flow to the Bolton and District Sewerage Board's Works at Ringley, where it will be treated by modern purification methods before being discharged into the River Irwell.

Some parts of the sewerage system, notably in the New Bury district, have been affected by subsidence, resulting in persistent flooding of streets and gardens during heavy rainfall. Sewerage improvement schemes for the affected areas are urgently needed.

DRAINAGE

All drainage work for Council-owned property, including new drainage for Council-houses, is supervised by the Borough Engineer's Department. All other new drainage and alterations to existing drains are inspected by Health Department staff. Whenever possible, smoke or water tests are applied to ensure that drains are watertight and properly laid. Care is also taken to check that drains under or near buildings are properly supported and strengthened. The Building Regulations, which came into force in February, include several important new provisions governing the drainage of buildings; these are enforced by the Corporation's Building Inspector and, where appropriate, by the Public Health Inspectors.

During the year, a 48 hour notice under Section 17 of the Public Health Act 1961 was served on the owner of a house, requiring repairs to defective drains. The notice was not complied with and the necessary work was done in default, costs being recovered from the owner.

The difficulties mentioned in earlier Reports in engaging suitable contractors to carry out drainage repairs persisted in 1966.

PUBLIC CONVENiences

The year under review produced little improvement in the town's public conveniences. Vandals were again active, and further inspections and reports served only to confirm that decent conveniences, with reasonable amenities, can be had only if they are under supervision. Until this is accepted there seems no likelihood of significant improvement. Meanwhile, although plans for town-centre development, including new conveniences, came nearer to realisation during the year, the urgent need for a modern block of public conveniences in the town centre remains unfulfilled.

DISINFESTATION

No serious difficulties were encountered under this heading. Minor insect infestations occurred from time to time during the year in domestic and industrial buildings. They were dealt with by the use of chemical insecticides. The value of insecticidal vapourisers, which were first used in 1965, was confirmed during the year when they were again used successfully to treat premises specially prone to cockroach and fly infestation.

The Department's services were called upon several times during the summer to deal with swarms of bees.

RODENT CONTROL

Following a difficult year in 1965 in this section of the Department, 1966 proved to be more satisfactory. There was a full-time rodent operative on duty throughout the year, and it was possible to keep on top of complaints. Indeed, there were opportunities to carry out a fair amount of preventive work, such as inspecting demolition and construction sites and taking action to prevent the possibility of rat infestation arising. Too often in the past it has been impossible to do this, all our efforts being directed towards the clearing of existing infestations.

This happier state of affairs was due in great part to the Council's approval at the end of 1965 to go ahead with a system of sewer rodent control utilising the services of a specialist firm. Between January and June of the year under review, this firm, under the Department's supervision, laid poison bait in all but a very few of the town's 1,100 sewer manholes. Later in the year a second treatment of about 600 of these manholes was done, and there is no doubt that by this means the sewer rat population of the town was substantially reduced. Some confirmation of this is given by the falling number of complaints of surface rat infestations—in 1965 the total was 307, in 1966, 204. It is hoped that this system of dealing with sewer rats can be maintained. If all the town's sewers can be treated at least once every year, with more frequent treatment of heavily infested sections, there can be every confidence that the number of surface infestations will continue to decline.

There are still many untrapped street drainage gullies connected to public sewers, especially in the older parts of the town. These gullies allow the emergence of sewer rats to the surface; they should be replaced at the earliest opportunity.

Details of inspections and treatments carried out during the year are given in Tables 9 and 10.

TABLE 9.
RODENT CONTROL
Properties other than sewers

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
(a) Number of properties in district	10,664	5
(b) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	403	2
(c) Number of (b) infested by —		
rats	314	2
mice	89	—
(d) Total number of properties inspected for rats and / or mice for reasons other than notification	123	1
(e) Number of (d) infested by —		
rats	47	1
mice	9	—

TABLE 10.
Sewer Treatments

Dates of Treatment	Number of Sewer Manholes Treated
January 1966	...
February 1966	...
March 1966	...
April 1966	...
May 1966	...
June 1966	...
September 1966	...
October 1966	...
November 1966	...
	<hr/>
	1620

FACTORIES

The Register of Factories, as required to be kept by the Factories Acts, contains the addresses of 128 factories. Of these 123 are provided with mechanical power.

The prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Acts, as requested by the Ministry of Labour, are to be found in Table 11.

TABLE 11.
FACTORIES ACT, 1961
PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors) during 1966.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect- ions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occu- piers prosecu- ted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	123	62	2	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	2	2	-	-
Total ...	130	65	2	-

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which pros- ecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conven- iences (S.7) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(a) Insufficient ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	Nil	1	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offend- ces relating to Out-work)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	2	2	Nil	1	Nil

3. Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices served	Prose- cutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Making Crackers etc.	17	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sewing	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

The Animal Boarding Establishments Act of 1963 requires proper standards of accommodation and care in places where pet animals are boarded out by their owners. It was reported last year that two applications for licences had been dealt with, one of which was granted. The other was deferred pending completion of modifications to the premises concerned. These modifications were completed in 1966 and the licence was granted. At the end of the year, therefore, there were two establishments on the register.

PET SHOPS

These premises have to be registered under the Pet Animals Act of 1951. The Act requires satisfactory standards of accommodation and cleanliness to be kept. There were six of these premises registered at the end of 1966, all of which were visited during the year. Special care is taken when inspecting pet shops to ensure that occupiers provide adequate warmth for animals and birds during the winter months and that overcrowding is avoided.

OFFICES AND SHOPS

The Register of premises covered by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act of 1963 contained the addresses of 255 premises at the end of the year. A total of 1,226 persons are employed in these premises.

The provisions of the Act require satisfactory standards relating to the health, welfare and safety of these workers, and during the year 162 visits were made in connection with these provisions. General inspections were made of 70 premises.

Occupiers of premises covered by the Act are required to notify the Authority of any accidents involving workpeople. During the year 8 accidents were notified, details of which are as follows:

1. Heavy package dropped on employee's foot while loading vehicle, causing bone fractures.
2. Barrel rolled on employee's hand during delivery, causing broken finger and abrasions.
3. Employee fell down steps, sustaining bruised back.
4. Ladder slipped while employee stacking goods, causing bruises and sprains.

5. Employee cut finger when cleaning bacon-slicing machine.
6. Maintenance man received bruises when falling off ladder.
7. Employee wrenched back lifting heavy package off lorry.
8. Employee punctured finger with staple when opening package.

Tables 12 and 13 give details of premises registered and persons employed.

TABLE 12.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

	Offices	Retail shops	Whole- sale shops, ware- houses	Catering establishments open to public, canteens	Fuel storage depots
Number of registered premises at end of year.	42	175	20	16	2
Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.	6	50	6	8	Nil
Number of exemptions current at end of year:					
Space (S.5.(2))	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Temperature (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary conveniences (S.9)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Washing facilities (S.10)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE 13.

Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	294
Retail Shops	662
Wholesale departments, warehouses	110
Catering establishments open to public	99
Canteens	8
Fuel storage depots	53
Total	1226
Total Males	501
Total Females	725

STAFF

The Department had a full complement of staff throughout the year. Table 14 shows the number of visits made by Public Health Inspectors during the year under the various headings. The figures follow the general pattern of work described in the body of this Report. Compared with 1965, there were less visits on housing repairs, drainage and housing clearance, food hygiene visits were considerably less, rodent control visits fewer by 600, and—at the other end of the scale—clean air visits up by 700. The decline in food hygiene work has received comment on an earlier page, but there can be no lamenting the decrease in rodent control visits, indicating as it does a marked reduction in rodent infestation.

In spite of staff changes, a good deal of progress has been made in recent years in slum-clearance, smoke control, food hygiene and rodent control. The burden of work on local authorities is increasing and will continue to do so. If the Department is to sustain and extend its activities, an adequate establishment of staff must be maintained.

TABLE 14.

VISITS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS DURING
1966

PUBLIC HEALTH

Repair of houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	724
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	173
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Accumulations and tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	173
Waste water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Drainage visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	435
Drain tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	184
Public sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Keeping of animals and birds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	267

HOUSING

Housing surveys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Individual unfit houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Houses in Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144
Cleared sites or demolition in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Houses in multiple occupation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
Rent Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

FOOD AND DRUGS

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	259
Butchers shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
Fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Confectioners shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sweet shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Warehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Fish & Chip shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Restaurants, cafes and canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Market stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	124
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Food Hygiene Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	198
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Milk samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Ice cream samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Inspection of unsound food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	201
Food vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other food visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Food hawkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

FACTORIES, etc.

CLEAN AIR ACT

Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Industrial air pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Domestic air pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Smoke Control Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	611
Measurement of air pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	397

RODENT CONTROL

Surface infestations 382
 Sewer treatment 151

MISCELLANEOUS

